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SECURITY INFORMATION

23 September 1952

SUBJECT: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE: NIE-36/2: PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN BURMA THROUGH 1953 (For consideration by the Board)

THE PROBLEM

To estimate probable developments in Burma through 1953, and Communist intentions and capabilities with respect to Burma during that period.

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

I. STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

- A. What is the current situation in Burma and what trends may be expected through 1953 with respect to the following:
1. The composition, efficiency, cohesiveness, and morale of the government and the popular support enjoyed by the government;
 2. The economic situation in Burma as it affects national morale, domestic and foreign policies, and military or police capabilities;

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3. The size, equipment, training, reliability, and effectiveness of military and police forces;
4. Government policies toward the Karens, the Burmese Communists, the KMT troops in Burma, and other dissident groups;
5. Government policies toward the West and the Communist bloc.

II. CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS OF BURMESE INSURGENTS

- A. What is the current situation in Burma and what trends may be expected through 1953 with respect to the following:
 1. Capabilities of various insurgent forces;
 2. Coordinated anti-government action by insurgent forces - extent and effectiveness;
 3. Capabilities of insurgents to receive and utilize material and technical assistance from the Chinese Communists.
- B. What is the present nature and level of Chinese Communist assistance to the insurgents?

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III. CHINESE COMMUNIST CAPABILITIES

- A. What trends may be expected in the capabilities of the Chinese Communists to provide material and technical assistance to the Burmese insurgents?
- B. What trends may be expected through 1953 in Chinese Communist capabilities to conduct military operations in Burma assuming the following conditions:
 - 1. A continuation of commitments elsewhere at present levels;
 - 2. Intensified operations in Korea;
 - 3. New commitments in Indochina.

IV. INDICATIONS OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS TOWARD BURMA

- A. What courses of action have the Communists followed with respect to Burma over the past year?
- B. What indications of the probable strategy and tactics of the Burmese Communists in the immediate future are available?
- C. What indications of the probable strategy and tactics of the USSR and Communist China in Burma in the immediate future are available?

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